



South Coast Air Quality Management District

Engineering & Compliance

*Policies &
Procedures*

SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 9, 1990
TO: Engineering Personnel
FROM: William J. Dennison /s/ by WJD
SUBJECT: California Environmental Quality Act Implementation Guidelines

The criteria under which California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documents are required have not been officially addressed by the Engineering Division even though we have been following the District's CEQA Implementation Guidelines, dated February 6, 1987. This memorandum outlines the criteria for determining whether CEQA documents are required for a project. A flow chart is attached to show the major decision points.

When receiving a new application, one should first determine (see Form 400A) if a CEQA document has been required or prepared for the project. A copy of the certified CEQA document must be reviewed for air quality mitigation measures required prior to issuance of the permit. For those projects which have prepared or are preparing a CEQA document and which triggers a District CEQA analysis, the permit must be held until our Planning Division has determined the adequacy of this underlying document and whether additional analysis is required.

Even for those projects requiring CEQA documents or review by other agencies, the District has to determine if such documents are required under its own process. Thus, the District may require a CEQA document of its own in the event of ministerial actions by the lead agency or a supplemental document if the lead agency review does not meet District requirements. According to the District's CEQA Implementation Guidelines, CEQA documents are required for projects that are significant or require non-ministerial actions. Ministerial actions are those listed on the attached pages. These guidelines are currently being updated. As a result, this list may be modified. A project is considered significant if it:

1. Has a health risk of greater than one in a million (10^{-6});
2. Emits, prior to internal mitigations, more than the emission levels specified under Rule 1309.1 (Community Bank); or
3. Requires a risk management and prevention program (RMPP).

CEQA documents can be a notice of exemption, a negative declaration, or an environmental impact report. Once it is determined that CEQA documents are required for a project and the District is the lead agency, the project should be referred to Planning Division for study and preparation of the documents.

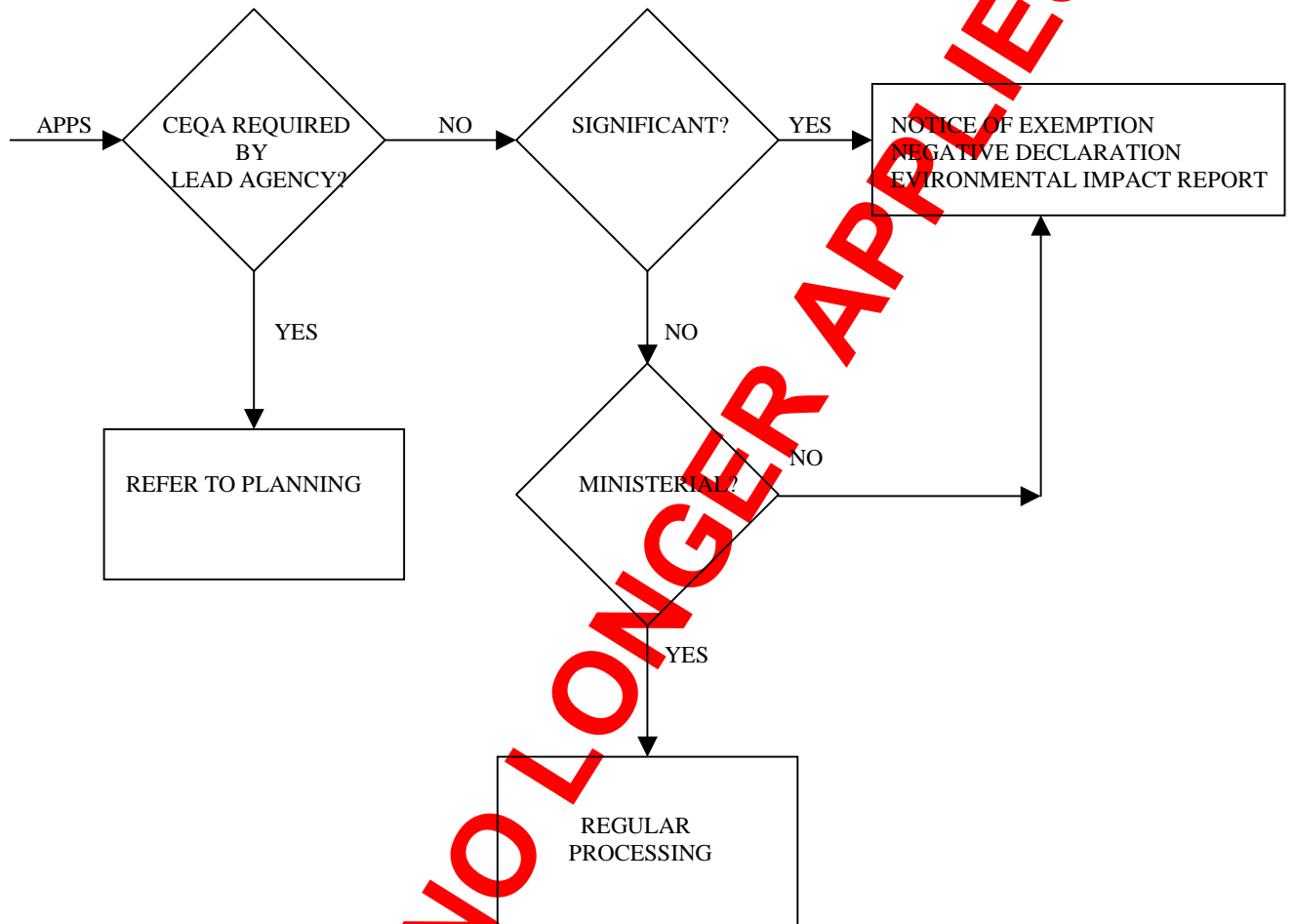
RRP:nv

Attachments

cc: Ed Camarena
Bill Fray
Pat Nemeth
Barry Wallerstein
Peter Greenwald
Diana Love

THIS MEMO NO LONGER APPLIES

CEQA FLOW CHART



THIS MEMO NO LONGER APPLIES

SIGNIFICANCE

RISK > 10^{-6}

EMISSION > CB LEVELS
(w/o INTERNAL MITIGATIONS)

RMPP REQUIRED

THIS MEMO NO LONGER APPLIES

MINISTERIAL ACTIONS

- STANDARDS APPLICATIONS
- CLASS IV APPLICATIONS
- APPLICATIONS TO MODIFY PERMIT CONDITIONS FOR EXISTING OR PERMITTED SOURCES OR FACILITIES WHICH DO NOT INVOLVE ANY INCREASES IN EMISSIONS OR PHYSICAL MODIFICATIONS
- PERMIT APPLICATIONS TO INSTALL AIR POLLUTION CONTROL OR ABATEMENT EQUIPMENT
- PERMIT APPLICATIONS FOR PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF BRINGING AN EXISTING FACILITY INTO COMPLIANCE WITH NEWLY ADOPTED REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS OF THE DISTRICT OR OF ANY OTHER LOCAL, STATE, OR FEDERAL AGENCY
- PERMIT APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED BY EXISTING SOURCES OR FACILITIES PURSUANT TO A LOSS OF A PREVIOUSLY VALID EXEMPTION FROM THE DISTRICT'S PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS
- PERMIT APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF AN ORDER FOR ABATEMENT ISSUED BY THE DISTRICT'S HEARING BOARD OR AS A RESULT OF ANY OTHER ENFORCEMENT ACTION TAKEN BY THE DISTRICT
- PERMIT APPLICATIONS RELATING EXCLUSIVELY TO THE REPAIR, MAINTENANCE OR MINOR ALTERATION OF EXISTING FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT OR SOURCES INVOLVING NEGLIGIBLE OR NO EXPANSION OF USE BEYOND THAT PREVIOUSLY EXISTING
- PERMIT APPLICATIONS FOR THE REPLACEMENT OR RECONSTRUCTION OF EXISTING SOURCES OR FACILITIES WHERE THE NEW SOURCE OR FACILITY WILL BE LOCATED ON THE SAME SITE AS THE SOURCE OR FACILITY REPLACED AND WILL HAVE SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME PURPOSE AND CAPACITY AS THE SOURCE OR FACILITY REPLACED
- ANY OTHER PROJECT WHICH IS EXEMPT FROM CEQA REVIEW PURSUANT TO THE STATE CEQA GUIDELINES
- APPLICATIONS TO REGISTER EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS CREDITS

- PERMIT APPLICATIONS FOR A PROPOSED NEW OR MODIFIED SOURCE OR SOURCES OR FOR PROCESS CHANGES AT AN EXISTING STATIONARY SOURCE FOR WHICH THERE WILL BE NO NET INCREASE IN THE EMISSIONS OF ANY AIR CONTAMINANT FROM THE STATIONARY SOURCE AND FOR WHICH THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY THAT THE PROJECT MAY HAVE ANY OTHER SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECT
- PERMIT APPLICATIONS FOR A PROPOSED NEW OR MODIFIED SOURCE OR SOURCES OR FOR PROCESS CHANGES AT AN EXISTING STATIONARY SOURCE FOR WHICH ANY NET INCREASE IN THE EMISSIONS OF ANY AIR CONTAMINANT FROM THE STATIONARY SOURCE ELIGIBLE FOR AND FUNDED FROM THE DAILY CUE OR THE COMMUNITY BANK AND FOR WHICH THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY THAT THE PROJECT MAY HAVE ANY OTHER SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECT

THIS MEMO NO LONGER APPLIES